

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL/LEGISLATIVE DINNER held Monday, December 2, 2013, at Greenbelt Marriott, for the purpose of discussing the City's legislative priorities and other legislative matters.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V. J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V. Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager and Robert Manzi, City Solicitor.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: State Senator Paul Pinsky; State Delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines and Alonzo Washington; and County Councilmember Ingrid Turner.

Mayor Jordan welcomed the legislators. He said the purpose of the gathering was for the City to discuss its legislative priorities for 2014.

The following City priority issues were reviewed.

State Issues

BOND BILL FOR GREENBELT THEATER: Provide \$200,000 of additional State funding to complete the renovation of the historic Greenbelt Movie Theater.

Senator Pinsky and Delegate Gaines noted difficulty obtaining additional bond funding since the City had not spent the \$300,000 already awarded. There was discussion that it might be a multi-year process to obtain additional funding and the City might have more success in the 2015 Session. Council member Turner suggested possible use of the EDI Fund. Delegate Washington suggested an Economic Development Authority Impact Grant.

REPEAL SUNSET CLAUSE FOR SHUTTLE UM PROGRAM: This program sunsets on June 30, 2014. PG 403-14 would repeal this sunset clause.

The Delegation expressed support for the bill. It was recommended that someone from the City testify in support of the legislation at the bill hearing on December 9.

REVISE NOISE BARRIER REGULATIONS: Provide funding for installation of noise barriers along the Beltway for Greenbelt communities.

The Delegation indicated that this was a statewide problem and funding was the main issue,

County Issues

PROTECT MUNICIPAL FUNDING SOURCES: Protect municipal funding including M-NCPPC grants, School Resource Officer contribution, Landfill Disposal rebate, CDBG funding and Youth Service Bureau grants. Increase funding where possible.

Council Member Turner expressed confidence that the M-NCPPC and school resource officer funding would be included in the Budget. She noted that the Youth Service Bureau funding was one-time money and required advocacy each year.

STORM WATER PROJECTS: Collaborate with municipalities to implement storm water remediation projects under the County's new Watershed Protection and Restoration Program.

Council Member Turner suggested the City set up a meeting with Adam Ortiz, Director of the Department of Environmental Resources, to discuss a list of desired projects and participate in his community advisory group

COMMERCIAL KITCHEN USAGE: Change County requirements to allow the City to rent the commercial kitchen at the Community Center.

Council Member Turner agreed to work with City staff to draft the necessary legislation to allow this use.

Joint State/County/MML Issue

FULL FUNDING OF MUNICIPAL HIGHWAY USER REVENUES: Restore Highway User Revenues to FY 08/09 full funding level of \$45 million.

OTHER ISSUES OF CITY INTEREST – State/County

- *Transit Service Issues*
 - o *Increase funds to support more weekend and evening service, particularly Sunday service.*
 - o *Reprioritize State transportation funding (more transit - less highway construction).*
 - o *Provide adequate WMATA funding*

OTHER ISSUES OF CITY INTEREST - State

- *Oppose Kenilworth Avenue (MD 201) Extension/Expansion*
- *Funding for Greenbelt Lake Dredging/Dam Repair*
- *Full Planning & Zoning Authority for Municipalities*
- *Environmental Initiatives*
 - o *Discourage/Prohibit the use of plastic shopping (grocery) bags.*
 - o *Encourage/Require alternative energy options (i.e. CNG, charging stations).*
 - o *Create a container deposit program.*
- *Amend State Ethics Legislation in areas that negatively impact municipalities*
- *Prohibit Transfer of Gas Station Liquor Licenses*
- *Apartment Assessment Inequities*
- *Explore Direction of Local Bus (TheBus) Funding to City instead of County*

OTHER ISSUES OF CITY INTEREST - County

- *New Greenbelt Fire Station*
- *Reestablish Landlord Tenant Commission*
- *Funding for Schools to Clear Snow on Sidewalks*
- *Repair of Beaver Dam Road*
- *Full Funding of Bridge to Excellence (Thornton)*
- *Require Art for New Developments*

Other Items

The legislators thanked the City for its hospitality. They invited Council to attend the 22nd District Legislative Reception in Annapolis on January 20, 2014. Council thanked the legislators for attending.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*